

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-26 and 28-39 are pending and under consideration.

The §§102 and 103 rejections are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the angle formed by the reflective slopes with respect to the lengthwise direction gradually becomes larger when moving further from a side of the guide onto which the light is incident. Present FIG. 8 illustrates this feature, as an example.

In contrast with FIG. 8, FIG. 13 of Yokoyama does not illustrate the angle of the depressions 13 with respect to the lengthwise direction. This is because FIG. 13 is a side view of the light-conducting member 2.

Tsutsumi does not overcome these deficiencies in Yokoyama, and is not relied on by the Examiner to do so.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper, since there would have been no motivation to combine the references. Tsutsumi teaches a plurality of reflecting portions 28 arranged to output uniform light from the LEDs 24 and 25. The Examiner purports to modify this reference so that the angle formed by the reflective slopes with respect to the lengthwise direction gradually becomes larger when moving further from a side of the guide onto which the light is incident. However, since the LEDs 24 and 25 are on opposite sides of the light guide member 27, as the angle gets larger relative to one side of the light guide member 27, the angle gets smaller relative to the other side of the light guide member 27. Thus, any advantage that would have been achieved by the larger angle is offset by the smaller angle. Since there would have been no net advantage, there would have been no motivation to modify Yokoyama as set forth by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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